



**US Army Corps
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Jacksonville District

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CORPS, SFWMD WILL BEGIN SECOND 10-DAY PULSE RELEASE CYCLE FROM LAKE OKEECHOBEE

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – Water managers for the Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District began a second Level 3 pulse release on Wednesday, Oct. 22, 2003. The lake elevation today is 16.74 feet, which is in Zone D of the Water Supply and Environmental Regulation Schedule.

This pulse release will continue for 10 days at an average rate of 3000 cfs to the Caloosahatchee River and 1,170 cfs to the St. Lucie Canal. The pulse release will be made through Structures S-77 and S-80.

Over the past 10 days, the Lake Okeechobee water level has declined about 0.03 feet per day. The recession has been aided by the releases, a decline in Kissimmee River Basin inflows, evaporation due to plentiful sunshine and below average rainfall.

Pulse releases are designed to mimic the natural recession experienced after a rain event. They attempt to strike a balance between the lake's littoral zone and the estuaries. In the future, the ongoing Everglades restoration, known as CERP, is designed to provide storage for some of this water and help reduce releases to the estuaries.

More in-depth water level data for Lake Okeechobee and the Central and Southern Florida Project can be found on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,

Jacksonville District, Water Management and Meteorology Section Homepage at

For more information about Jacksonville District's activities, visit our website at: <http://www.saj.usace.army.mil>

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